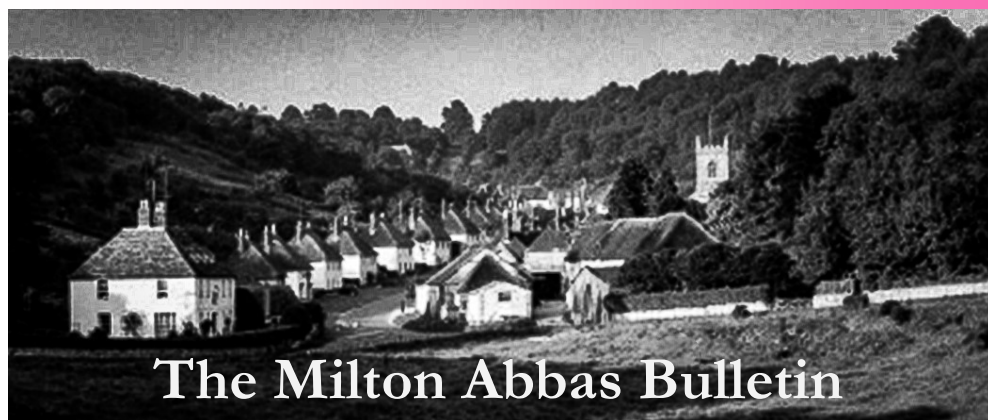


Oct 2025
Issue 14



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The Milton Abbas Bulletin

Welcome!

Hello! Autumn is fast approaching, the nights getting cooler and longer, yet it's a wonderful time to enjoy the warm sun and the leaves beginning to change into a magnificent array of hues with nature putting on a full display for all.

The Anglo-Saxons' named October "Winterfylleth" the name contains the words for winter & full moon. It was said that winter begun from the first full moon, Hunters moon, and due on the 7th. For all you night sky watchers, we can look forward to the Draconid Meteor shower, active 6th -10th and expected to peak on 8th.

1st & 2nd October is Yom Kippur, a holy day in the Jewish calendar.

5th October is World Teachers' Day,

7th October is the Pearl Wedding Anniversary of Richard and Jill Jordan. Huge congratulations on 30 years together!



10th October is World Mental Health Day,

Diwali is the 18th -22nd October, the festival of lights

30th October is Milton Abbas Chili festival date.



The whole of October is Black History Month,

October 31st is Halloween.

The first McDonald's in the UK opened on October 1, 1974.

The restaurant is still open in Woolwich, south London.

October has two birthstones, tourmaline, and opal and the flowers are marigold and cosmos.

What is a pumpkin's favourite sport? Squash!



Best regards, Mrs Ed!

Milton Abbas Surgery

Welcome to the Team

We are delighted to announce that Dr Jon Dent has officially joined the partnership at our practice, effective from 1st September 2025. Dr Dent did his last year of GP training with us as a Registrar from August 2021 for 12 months, and then he joined us as a salaried GP from January 2023.

We would like to welcome our new Pharmacist Janine who will be working with us on Mondays doing medication reviews for patients.

We would also like to welcome Frances, our new Receptionist, to the surgery Admin Team. Francis is taking over in Reception for Kelly on a Friday. Kelly has reduced her hours at the surgery due to an increase in caring responsibilities but will continue in her Social Prescribing and Carers Lead role for the surgery.

We are also very pleased to welcome back Tracy, who has returned to help us with our phlebotomy appointments!

Annual Flu & Covid Vaccination Clinic

We will be running our annual Flu & Covid Vaccination Clinic for our over 65yrs old eligible patients on Saturday 4th October 2025 at the Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall. This clinic will be for booked appointments only.

Please note, the criteria for Autumn 2025 Covid vaccinations has changed. Only adults aged 75 years and over, residents in care homes for older adults, and individuals who are immunosuppressed aged 6 months and over, will be eligible. We are unable to give vaccines outside of these cohorts. Please see our surgery website www.masurgery.co.uk or Facebook page for more information.

Cervical Screening Results

Starting in September, the NHS plans to trial sending cervical screening results through the NHS App. If your test result is negative, you'll get a message and notification in the app. If you don't read the message within 72 hours, a letter will be sent to the registered address as a backup. Any abnormal results will continue to be delivered by letter.

To access the app, you need to be signed up to online services at the practice. Speak to one of our receptionists if you are unsure whether you have online services. To download the NHS App and turn on notifications go to www.nhs.uk/nhs-app.

If you would like help to set up and use the app, please speak with our Social Prescribers at the surgery who can signpost you to local help and support.

Milton Abbas Surgery Cont.

Dorchester Carers Nook – A Space for Those Who Care

Are you a carer? Then the Dorchester Carers Nook is here to support you. Created with carers, for carers, this monthly drop-in offers a warm welcome, practical advice, and the chance to connect with others who understand the challenges and rewards of caring. The drop in takes place every 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10.00am – 12.00pm at the Dorchester Connect Day Centre.

What's on offer?

- Carer Café – Meet other carers, share experiences, and enjoy a well-earned break (**no booking needed for carers, just drop in**)
- Activities for the cared-for person – Supervised sessions to give carers some breathing room (**pre-booking required**).
- Information & Advice – Access to local charities, health services, and community organisations.
- On-Hand Support – From Primary Care Network teams, Social Prescribers, and Long-Term Condition Coordinators.

For more details, please see the news section at www.masurgery.co.uk or contact the surgery Social Prescribers.



USUAL OPENING HOURS

MONDAY: 9AM-4PM

TUESDAY: CLOSED

WEDNESDAY: 9AM-4PM

THURSDAY: 9AM-4PM

FRIDAY: 9AM-4PM

SATURDAY: 9AM-4PM

SUNDAY: 10AM-3PM



With a menu featuring hot and cold food, pastries, toasties, and unique treats. Vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options are available. We also sell Jurassic Roast coffee, Clipper teas, and local Piddle Brewery beers.

There is free parking, a bike rack, and family-friendly sports field.

Find us on our website: www.theviewcoffeeshopma.com or our social media pages

Steeptonbill Farm Shop

Selling beautifully fresh, locally-grown produce all year round!

Opening hours:

Monday to Saturday 09:00 - 17:00

Sunday 09:00 - 16:00



Contact Steve at steeptonbill@gmail.com

Steve is current harvesting Pumpkins, and has sackloads of spuds!!

Some varied pumpkin recipes here:

<https://www.olivemagazine.com/recipes/collection/best-pumpkin-recipes/>



MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Coffee Morning
Held at St James Church in September
The magnificent sum of £425 was raised!

Thanks to all who came and supported this
great cause!

Jennifer



Milton Abbas Lunch Club

We meet on **every second Wednesday** of the month in **Milton Abbas' Reading Room**.

Lunch is a two-course meal served at 1pm with a welcoming glass of sherry.

A small group of ladies take it in turns to cook a main and a pudding and we charge £5 per head. We have a 5-star food hygiene rating.

We also hold a small raffle at 50p per ticket and we ask people to bring along something to put into the raffle, ensuring everybody can take something home.

Why not come along to our next lunch meet on the **8th of October** and have a delicious meal with us? To book your place, please register your name with:

Milton Abbas Post Office by Friday the 3rd October, or email Jennifer:

hrrssnsup@aol.com

The menu for September has yet to be announced at the time of writing - but I have no doubt it will be lovely, wholesome and hearty!

Computer Cafe

Got an issue with your computer or mobile phone?

Come along to the Reading Rooms on a Thursday between 10am and 12 noon and we will see if we can help. We ask you to buy a drink and a piece of cake for £2 to cover our costs.

Jennifer



SMITHS
D O R S E T

SMITHS
KITCHEN

LANGHAM DORSET

Wednesday 24 September

**New Autumn Menu launch
available Weds- Sat 12-3.30pm**

Saturday 27 September

**Our final Seafood Saturday
Our signature sharing platters
with live music from 7pm
(booking essential)**

Friday 3 October

**THE BIG HARVEST SUPPER
with dusk tour, tasting, sharing
feast and live music from the super
talented enigmatic Jaz Delorean
(6.30pm start, booking essential)**

Sunday 5 October

**Our unbeatable Roast lunch is
BACK! Every Sunday**

Friday 31 October

**This is no Halloween Supper
For full avoidance of everything
spooky (apart from the odd lit
pumpkin) join us for a decadent
three course dinner with live music
(7pm arrival, booking essential)**



01258 839095

www.langhamwine.co.uk

www.smithsdorset.com

Milton Abbas Sports Club!

The first AGM took place at St James church after many years for the Milton Abbas Sports Club. Thank you to all of those that attended.

After a presentation of the last year and finances a new committee was created with a mix of old and new committee members. A big thank you goes to those committee members that have stood down this year and a big welcome goes to the new members.

As a committee we will work hard with new and exciting ways that our club can progress in the next year, serving our wonderful village and residents. Whilst we enter the winter months and everything quietens down we will be setting up next year's program involving sports, bookings and community activities.

We are interested in any ideas that local people have to help improve the club. Please contact with any feedback and ideas.

We look forward to seeing you over the next year within this amazing and beautiful space.

Bev Martin

(on behalf of the Sports Club Committee)



RDA - Riding for the Disabled



Milton Abbas Riding for Disabled Group offer therapeutic horse riding to young disabled children on Tuesdays 5-6.30pm and Fridays 10-12 noon in term time.

We are a charity (Reg. no. 1177691) entirely run by volunteers and we raise our own funds to enable us to operate.

If you would like to consider regular volunteering with us, please contact Sue Hodder on 07739 469946 or suehodder01@talktalk.net

Friday Quilters!



Fridays from 9:30 to 12:00 in the Milton Abbas Reading Room.

You do not have to be a quilter!

Bring your knitting or anything else that you are currently working on.

We stop for coffee, tea & biscuits or, if you are lucky, a piece of cake! We will be very pleased to see you.

Further details from **Anthea - 01258 269348**

MA Art Group



Art Group is back! With many of the artists returning after the summer with a creative hunger, the Reading Room offered a welcome pad for them to draw, paint, sew, cut and stick; oh, and drink wine and eat scones and cake!

You might have seen some of the group up at Steptonbill farm shop recently where they held a successful 'Milton Abbas Art Group goes to the Farm Shop'. Three of the members set up shop in the little cabin and encouraged youngsters to have a go at drawing and painting.

Children of all ages were inspired by the artists' work, the pigs, pumpkins and tiny kittens – they really did steal the show! If your child took part in the event, please do check out the MAAG website - the 'Young Artists' section has been updated to show off all of the pictures created on the day.

The group are considering another pop-up event at the farm shop and also in other local venues so let them know if you have somewhere which might be suitable.

If you'd like to find out more about Milton Abbas Art Group, please contact one of the committee members via our contacts below:

Email: miltonabbasart@gmail.com

Website: <https://miltonabbasart.wixsite.com/miltonabbasart>

Instagram: [miltonabbasartgroup1](https://www.instagram.com/miltonabbasartgroup1)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MiltonAbbasArtGroup>





Milton Abbas Local History Group

Thanks to Bryan Phillips:

Milton Abbas Poor House

I was reading the latest issue of 'The Local Historian' August 2025 about 'Galloping' Head, a man who had been appointed Assistant Poor Law Commissioner for Kent in 1834.

It was his job to meet all the parish overseers and churchwardens of Kent to form them into Parish Unions and then build workhouses. He was paid £700 a year, which was an extraordinary amount considering an agricultural labourer was earning 7s a week at this time. The same procedures were taking place all over England after the Poor Law Amendment Act received royal assent on 14 August that year. There was much discontent in Kent about forming these Union Workhouses and I was wondering how the process was proceeding in Dorset.

We know that in Milton Abbas a new, and probably the first, poorhouse was occupied in 1804, just down from what was then the Portarlington Arms, now known as the Hambro Arms. The building can be seen in the 1852 engraving, but has since disappeared. Whether this was a response to the poverty crisis around 1800 or because George or Caroline Damer took a different attitude to the workers of Milton Abbas from their father, we do not yet know.

In the Overseers of the Poor Account Book for 2 Apr 1804 -

"At a Special Vestry held in the Parish Church of Milton Abbas pursuant to Notice given - A Statement of the Bills for Furniture provided for the New Poor House was produced and amounted to £170. It is therefore agreed that the Money be immediately paid (to do which will take five Rates) by the respective Occupiers of rateable property within the said Parish and that the same be repaid them by fourteen equal Instalments at every future Easter Vestry 'till the whole amount is paid and in Case any occupier should quit or leave his Farm in the mean time the succeeding Occupier to pay such Sum as should then remain unpaid to such Tenant or Occupier quitting"

There were many more payments to the poorhouse until the records ceased in 1836, although the Milton Abbas poorhouse remained until at least 1841. In this Census we know there were still 68 paupers living there with 14 men, 14 women, and 40 children. Of the 14 men, 13 were agricultural labourers.

The Milton Abbas poorhouse was never called a workhouse, and the records do not show any work being done there. We do not know how many, nor when, Milton Abbas people were transferred to the Blandford Union Workhouse - this could be a topic for further research.

There is plenty more that could be found out about the Milton Abbas poor and their poorhouse. Get in touch via our website if you would like to join us.

Contact Simon Martin - simonmartin@btinternet.com for more information.

Strawberry Cottage Studio



Louise was back to her 'proper job' of Primary Maths Consultancy at the start of September, so the pink door to Strawberry Cottage Studio has been closed for a little while. But with the farm shop event looming, Louise managed to find time to create an acrylic painting on canvas of 'Pig in the Flowers' and also a pen, watercolour and digital art creation of 'Pig Gallery'. These were popular with visitors at the MAAG event at Steeptonbill, and cards of both of the pictures can now be seen in Strawberry Cottage Studio and in Steve's farm shop on the new card carousel.

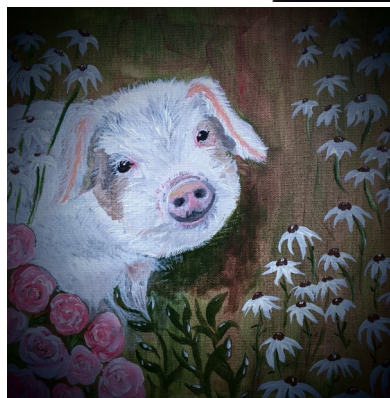
If you are looking for original ideas for presents, please do take a look at the website or pop into Strawberry Cottage Studio in the street when the A-frame is out on the lawn. You might also like to consider a commission for pen and watercolour miniatures of a friend's house as a bespoke gift – examples of previous commissions are on Louise's website.

Website: www.StrawberryCottageStudio.com

Email: lfreirart@gmail.com

Instagram: [@louisefreirart](https://www.instagram.com/louisefreirart)

Thank you very much for supporting your local businesses.



Thought for the Month

Does a song ever get stuck in your head? You find yourself humming whilst washing up, the lyrics going around your head when you're trying to get to sleep.

Every Harvest, one hymn gets stuck in my head: ***We Plough the Fields and Scatter.***

It's more than a catchy tune - it's a reminder that while we work hard, the harvest depends on gifts beyond our control. Nature, grace, and community all play a part.

Years ago, I led a Harvest service in London. I gave it my best - readings, hymns, a heart-felt talk. One man met me at the church door and told me I'd ruined Harvest...why? Because we didn't sing that hymn.

It's a song people remember, and its message matters. Harvest is a time to pause and be thankful. Not just for food, but for the small joys: a good coffee, a walk with the dog, dinner with friends, or even blessing a parrot and eight stick insects at the Milton Abbas pet service last month!

Gratitude shifts our focus from what's missing to what's present. It's a powerful way to live - noticing, appreciating, and sowing good things. Kindness, forgiveness, perseverance, faith - these are seeds we plant every day.

So when that hymn gets stuck in my head this year, I'm going to let it remind me: our work in partnership with God. And from that, thankfulness.

Let's keep sowing good seeds in our village and beyond.

In the words of poet Mary Oliver:

Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.

Join us for our Harvest Service at St James Church, on Sunday 12th October at 10:30am. All are warmly welcome.

Blessings

Rev'd Lewis

MA Football

MA Football kicks off on Friday evenings @ 6:30pm. We play on Milton Abbas Sports Field where we can see the sea and play on an excellent small sided pitch to suit 5,6 or 7-a-side games.

Our aim was to gather players of 50+ and get a little bit fitter each week. In truth we have some players in their 40's and had some younger ones too in their 20's as occasional visitors supporting their Dad.

Would you would like to play Football on Fridays? You don't need to be super fit and only need trainers with a grip for the grass pitch.

Contact Martin Kelly: Tel: 07802 260393

WhatsApp or Email: [mar-tin@redmailer.co.uk](mailto:martin@redmailer.co.uk)



Coffee Stop

Every Tuesday St James Church opens up its south aisle to welcome villagers and passers-by in for a cuppa and a slice of cake

All are welcome!

It is a great way to meet other villagers and catch up on things.

The coffee stop runs from 11am until 12 noon and we charge just £1 for a drink and another £1 for a slice of cake!

All proceeds go to the up-keep of our beautiful church



CHURCHES IN THE WINTERBORNE VALLEY & MILTON ABBAS

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER

9am - Turnworth (Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Harvest))

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER

9am - Winterborne Stickland (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Milton Abbas (Harvest)
10:30am - Winterborne Clenston (Harvest)
4:30pm - Winterborne Houghton (Cafe Church)

SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER

9am - Milton Abbas (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Communion)
11:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Harvest)

SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER

10:30am - Winterborne Houghton (Communion)
10:30am - Turnworth (Morning Worship)
6pm - Milton Abbas (SoulSpace)

COMMUNION

MUSIC/PRAYER/REFLECTION & SHARING BREAD & WINE

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

A GENTLE & TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE STYLE SERVICE

CAFE CHURCH

FOOD/INTERACTIVE/CRAFT

SOULSPACE

SHORT/CONTEMPLATIVE WITH REFLECTION AND SILENCE

MORNING PRAYER/WORSHIP

A MIXTURE OF MANY OF THE ABOVE WITHOUT COMMUNION

Service of Light—In Loving Memory

Sunday 2nd November, at 3pm

St Mary's Church,
Winterborne Stickland



This service offers everyone a time to come together to remember our loved ones.

If you have lost a loved one and would like the opportunity to remember them in a special way this service consists of prayers, readings, music, and silence, with the names of those who have died read out and candles lit. This short service will help us:

To renew our faith and trust in God;

To pray for those who mourn;

and to seek God's grace, that we may know his love and the hope he gives us, through faith in Jesus Christ.

For more details, please contact **Rev Sue Litchfield 07885 786590**

Milton Abbas Chili Festival



Don't forget that the Annual Milton Abbas Chili Festival is upon us! This hotly-contested chili growing competition culminates in a Chili Night where the best plants are independently judged, and a feast of chili-based fayre is enjoyed by all.

Milton Abbas Chili Festival T Shirts are available sporting the logo in the picture above left.

These are excellent quality and are available in a range of sizes which can be ordered from Phil Ford - they cost £25 each, with all profits going to the MA Play Park

This year's event will be at **Milton Abbas Sports Ground** (subject to availability!) on **Thursday 30th October** from **7:30pm**

September Picture Quiz Result:



Last month's photo was of the underside of the roof of the bandstand in the Millennium Green - Congratulations to **Brian Drammis** for getting it right



October Picture Quiz:

Do you know where this was taken? Recognise the image?

Drop us an email and let us know!

The first correct responder gets their name in next month's MA Bulletin.



Articles and Feedback Gratefully Received:

MiltonAbbasBulletin@GMail.com

or contact the editorial team directly:

Paula Driver

Bev Martin

Stuart Driver